

Offered by City Councilors Julia Mejia, Sharon Durkan, Ruthzee Louijeune, Arroyo, Baker, Breadon, Coletta, Fernandes Anderson, Flaherty, Lara, Murphy, Worrell and Flynn



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF 32BJ SEIU'S CLEANING CONTRACT CAMPAIGN

- WHEREAS,** Janitors are among the essential workers who kept our City running during one of the greatest crises we have ever faced—the COVID-19 pandemic; *and*
- WHEREAS,** While many people were able to work from home during the pandemic, janitors risked their own health to ensure that buildings and public spaces were safe and sanitized; *and*
- WHEREAS,** 12,000 New England janitors, including over 5,000 who work in the City of Boston, are currently in contract negotiations and hope to achieve fair and reasonable goals of higher wages, more opportunities for full-time work and family healthcare, and better working conditions; *and*
- WHEREAS,** These workers clean over 10 million square feet of floor space, including office buildings in one of the country's strongest commercial real estate markets; a thriving and rapidly expanding life sciences sector; millions of square feet of new office and laboratory space being built in almost every neighborhood of Boston; and provide a sanitized learning, living, and working environment for over 220,000 students and 51,000 at local colleges and universities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Hundreds of these workers ensure cleanliness in airport terminals, transit hubs, MBTA stations and vehicles, and other public facilities which serve as the gateway for travelers to Boston and its economy; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Essential workers and their unions, through collective bargaining and community advocacy, have been critical to the work of creating a fairer economy for all Bostonians, who live in one of the most expensive parts of the country, and while working families continue to struggle with the high cost of living; *and*
- WHEREAS,** These negotiations provide an important opportunity to recognize and reward the commitment of the essential janitors who personally sacrificed to keep Boston strong during the pandemic; *and*

WHEREAS,

The contract for 32BJ janitors will expire at midnight, November 15, 2023; ***THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED,

That Boston City Council stands in solidarity with 32BJ janitors; that the City Council calls upon property owners and janitorial clients in the City of Boston to support the workers who clean their buildings, and calls on them to publicly urge the contractors they hire to offer strong standards for these essential workers in their next master agreement.

Date Filed: October 25, 2023